



U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Crime Hearing Tuesday on House Anti-Meth Legislation

What: Legislative hearing on H.R. 3889, the “Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act”

Who: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security – Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman

When: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

The methamphetamine problem has grown at a dramatic rate, and is now considered the most significant drug abuse problem in the country; the National Association of Counties recently published a survey that shows 60 percent of responding counties stated methamphetamine was their largest drug problem. Methamphetamine is easily produced in clandestine laboratories or meth labs using a variety of ingredients available without a prescription in stores.

PROBLEMS...

- ✓ Cooking a batch of meth is extremely dangerous due to the fact that the chemicals used are volatile and the by-products are very toxic. Meth labs present a danger to the meth cook, the community surrounding the lab, and the law enforcement personnel who discover the lab.
- ✓ Meth labs also have been linked to significant instances of child abuse. Children face specific dangers from inhalation, absorption or ingestion of toxic chemicals or contaminated food that may result in respiratory difficulties, chemical burns and death.
- ✓ Meth production is very damaging to the environment. The production of one pound of methamphetamine releases poisonous gas into the atmosphere and creates 5 to 7 pounds of toxic waste.

THIS HEARING WILL EXAMINE...

- ⇒ What measures are needed to reduce the illegal importation of meth precursors?
- ⇒ What criminal penalty enhancements are needed to deter meth trafficking?
- ⇒ What measures can be taken to address the environmental impact of meth labs?

WITNESSES: Rep. Mark Souder, sponsor of H.R. 3889; Rep. Mark Kennedy, co-sponsor of H.R. 3889; Mr. Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Chief, Office of Enforcement Operations, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and Dr. Barry M. Lester, Professor of Psychiatry & Human Behavior and Pediatrics, Brown University Medical School.

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